Mechanised sorting system

40. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to instal mechanised sorting and coding machines for sorting out letters in major metro cities in the country as reported in the Hindustan Times of the 10th February, 1993;

(b) if so, what are the cities likely to be covered during 1993-94 and during the Eighth Plan period, indicating the budgetary provision made therefor during the said period;

(c) what is the capacity of each machine for sorting out letters per hour and how many employees in the Department of Posts are likely to be declared surplus in this process;

(d) what alternative plan Government have envisaged for retention of such employees in cities like Bombay, Delhi, Madras etc.;

(e) whether the staff associations/unions have been taken into confidence before the mechanisation and modernisation of areas relating to sorting of mails and other thrust areas identified for this purpose; and

(f) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) During 1993-94, it is proposed to instal an automatic integrated mail processing system comprising two Letter Sorting Machines and thirty Coding Desks at Madras. During the 8th Plan Period, another such system is proposed to be installed at Delhi. In the current Five Year Plan, a budgetary provision of Rs. 66 crores have been made for mail processing systems.

(c) Each Letter Sorting Machine has a maximum output of 30,000 letters per hour. The manual Coding Desks whose output is fed manually into the sorting machines are expected to give an output of 2500 letters per hour. On installation of this equipment in Bombay during 1992-93, it is estimated that about 85 sorters are expected to be rendered surplus but there will be no retrenchment.

(d) The surplus manpower will be utilized against existing vacancies.

(e) and (f) Yes Sir. A background paper on mail mechanisation has been furnished to the recognised staff Federations. A number of meetings have since been held with the unions and their views have been obtained. There is a Standing Committee of the Departmental Council of the JCM for examining the various aspects of mechanised sorting system Regular meetings of this Standing Committee and also meetings at other levels, are held. The views of the Staff Unions are taken into account while implementing the decision taken in this matter.

Steps to encourage pay phone scheme

41. SHRI GOPALSINH H. G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of advertisements given in local news papers for new communications of pay phones scheme in Gujarat and Union Territory of Delhi in the year 1992 till the 31st December;

(b) what are the total collections from pay phones in Delhi, Ahmedabad, Baroda, Surat, Rajkot, Jamnagar and Bhavnagar during the last twelve months ending 31st December, 1992;

(c) whether any fresh guidelines are being issued for the benefit of the weaker sections and Scheduled Castes and Tribes in this regard; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof and the number of pay phones proposed to be given in Delhi, Ahmedabad, Baroda, Surat, Rajkot, Jamnagar and Bhavnagar and other areas during the Eighth Five Year Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) The required details are furnished in the attached Statement. (*See* below).

(b) The total collection from pay-phones in respect of Ahmedabad, Baroda, Surat, Rajkot, Jamnagar, Bhavnagar and Delhi from 1.1.92 to 31.12.92 are as under:

Sl. No.	City	Total collections from 1-1-92 to 31-12-92 in (Rs.)
1.	Ahemedabad	12,09,36,162
2.	Baroda	5,25,76,342
3.	Rajkot	4,13,61,536
4.	Surat	6,60,40,320
5.	Jamnagar	2,00,08,092
6.	Bhavnagar	1,91,06,327
7.	Delhi	Information is being worked out and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) Our policy is to freely sanction public Telephones. Wherever due to constraint in the exchange capacity, it is not possible to allot freely, preference will be given to among others. SC/ST and other weaker sections of society. Guidelines already exist in this matter.

(d) Targets for provision of pay-phones are fixed on yearly basis. During 1992-93, 53,000 public telephones (local, STD/ISD) are proposed to be installed all over the country including Ahmeda-bad, Baroda, Surat, Rajkot, Jamnagar and Bhavnagar.

Statement

1. *Gujarat Area*	*Name of the Newspaper*	2. *New Delhi*
1. Amreta . . .	Jaihind	Hindustan Times
2. Ahmedabad . .	Gujarat Samachar Sandesh	Times of India
	Times of Inda	Indian Express
	Indian Express	Dainik Hindustan
3. Baroda . . .	Times of India	Jansatta.
	Indian Expres	
	Lok Satta	
4. Nadiad . . .	Naya Podkar	
	Gujarat Today	
	Sandesh	
	Jansatta	

5.	Junagadh . . .	Jaihind
		Phool Chhab
		Sandesh
		Gujarat Samachar
		Times of India
		Indian Express
6.	Jamnagar . . .	Nabat
		Bhoomi
		Good Evening
		Sandesh
		Phoul Chhab
		Gujarat Mitra
7.	Surat . . .	Gujarat Samachar
		Sandesh
		Surat Times
		Times of India
		Indian Express
8.	Himatnagar . .	Sandesh
9.	Palampur . . .	Gujarat Samachar
		Sandesh
		Rakhewal
10.	Surendranagar . .	Samay
		Gujarat Samachar
11.	Bharuch . . .	Sandesh
		Gujarat Samachar
		Times of India
12.	Bhuj . . .	Kutch Mitra
13.	Rajkot . . .	Phool Chhab
		Jai Hind
		Sanjh Samachar
		Jansatta
		Akila
		Sandesh